



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/693,070	10/24/2003	Abhijeet P. Gole	5693P028	3377
48102	7590	01/23/2006	EXAMINER	
NETWORK APPLIANCE/BLAKELY 12400 WILSHIRE BLVD SEVENTH FLOOR LOS ANGELES, CA 90025-1030			KO, DANIEL BOKMIN	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2189	

DATE MAILED: 01/23/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/693,070	GOLE ET AL.
	Examiner Daniel B. Ko	Art Unit 2189

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 October 2003.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 24 October 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

This action is responsive to the application filed on 10/24/2003. Claims 1-18 have been submitted for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 1, 2, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tremblay et al. (US Patent 6,728,898, B2), hereinafter simply Tremblay.

Regarding claims 1 and 16, Tremblay teaches a method of mirroring data stored in a source storage system, the method comprising:

receiving a plurality of requests at the source storage system (Fig. 1, First Data Storage Device 105; column 3, lines 42-62);
saving modified data in the source storage system based on the requests (column 3, lines 42-53); and

during a synchronization phase, synchronizing data stored in a destination storage system (Fig. 2, Second Data Storage Device 110; column 3, lines 19-21) with the data stored in the source storage system, including mirroring at least a portion of the modified data in the destination storage system (column 1, lines 33-45) without requiring

said portion of the modified data to be sent from the source storage system to the destination storage system during the synchronization phase (column 1, lines 59-67; Tremblay discloses the write requests received at the second storage processed prior to commit-synchronization with first storage device which could results in synchronization without transfer of modified data from the first storage).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

2. Claims 3-15 and 17-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tremblay in view of Selkirk et al. (US Patent Application 2002/0178335 A1), hereinafter simply Selkirk.

Regarding claim 3, Tremblay teaches a method of mirroring data stored in a source storage system disk (See claims 1 and 2 rejections above).

Tremblay fails to teach a transfer ID.

Selkirk teaches a method, wherein the each reference comprises a transfer ID indicating a data transfer in which the corresponding block was previously sent from the source storage system to the destination storage system (page 5, paragraph 85; page 6, paragraph 86 and 87; Selkirk discloses the multiple layers of mapping table entry which may provide unique identification of the storage location).

At the time of invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the Tremblay with Selkirk. The motivation for doing so would have been an efficient copy using virtual mapping scheme (page 13, paragraph 196). Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Tremblay with Selkirk for the benefit of an efficient mirroring using Selkirk's virtual mapping scheme.

Regarding claim 4, Selkirk teaches a method, wherein each said reference comprises an indication of a location at which the corresponding block was located within the data transfer (page 1, paragraph 10).

Regarding claim 5, Selkirk teaches a method, wherein said mirroring at least a portion of the modified data in the destination storage system comprises storing in the source storage subsystem an association between the transfer IDs (page 5, paragraph 85; page 6,

paragraph 86 and 87; Selkirk discloses the multiple layers of mapping table entry which may provide unique identification of the storage location) and blocks wholly modified by the requests (page 6, paragraph 92).

Regarding claim 6, Selkirk teaches a method, wherein said mirroring at least a portion of the modified data in the destination storage system comprises storing in the destination storage subsystem an association between the transfer IDs (page 5, paragraph 85; page 6, paragraph 86 and 87; Selkirk discloses the multiple layers of mapping table entry which may provide unique identification of the storage location) and a plurality of offsets, the offsets indicating locations in local storage of the destination storage system at which corresponding blocks of data are stored (Fig. 9, Load Point and Offset 906, page 6, paragraph 92).

Regarding claims 7 and 11, Selkirk teaches a method, wherein said portion of modified data consists of blocks wholly modified as a result of the requests (page 4, paragraph 75; page 6, paragraph 92).

Regarding claims 8 and 10, Selkirk teaches a method, further comprising: creating a log entry in the source storage system for each of the write requests; and transmitting each log entry from the source storage system to the destination storage system prior to the synchronization phase, wherein said mirroring at least a portion of the modified data in the destination storage system comprises using data from at least some of

the log entries in the destination storage system to mirror said portion of modified data in the destination storage system (page 13, paragraph 190).

Regarding claims 9 and 18, Selkirk teaches a method of mirroring data, the method comprising, in a first storage appliance:

receiving a plurality of requests to write data from a set of client devices, the requests for causing modification of a plurality of blocks of data stored in a first set of non-volatile storage devices coupled to the first storage appliance (Fig. 1, Clients 108, 110, and 112; page 2, paragraph 39);

storing modified data in the first set of non-volatile storage devices based on the requests (See Tremblay, Fig. 1, First Data Storage Device 105; column 3, lines 42-62);

initiating a process of synchronizing data in the first set of non-volatile storage devices with data stored in a second set of non-volatile storage devices coupled to a second storage appliance (See Tremblay, column 1, lines 59-67); including

sending each block of a first subset of the plurality of blocks from the first storage appliance to the second storage appliance, to cause the second storage appliance to store the blocks of the first subset in the second set of non-volatile storage devices (See Tremblay, column 5, lines 20-22), and

for each block of a second subset of the plurality of blocks, sending a reference from the first storage appliance to the second storage appliance, instead of sending the corresponding block, each said reference for use by the second storage appliance to locate the corresponding block in local storage of the second storage appliance and to store the

corresponding block in the second set of non-volatile storage devices (See Tremblay, column 1, lines 59-67; Tremblay discloses the write requests received at the second storage processed prior to commit-synchronization with first storage device which could results in synchronization without transfer of modified data from the first storage).

Regarding claim 12, Selkirk teaches a method, wherein said sending a reference from the first storage appliance to the second storage appliance comprises, for each block of the second subset of the plurality of blocks:

sending a transfer ID (page 5, paragraph 85; page 6, paragraph 86 and 87; Selkirk discloses the multiple layers of mapping table entry which may provide unique identification of the storage location) and a block number associated with the block to the second storage appliance, the transfer ID identifying a data transfer in which the block was sent to the second storage appliance during said transmitting the log entry (page 10, paragraph 158 and 161; page 13, paragraph 190), the block number indicating a location of the block within said data transfer (page 1, paragraph 10).

Regarding claims 13 and 17, Selkirk teaches a method of mirroring data, the method comprising, in a first storage server:

receiving a plurality of requests to write data from a set of client devices, the requests for causing modification of a plurality of blocks of data (Fig. 1, Clients 108, 110, and 112; page 2, paragraph 39);

creating a log entry for each of the requests; transmitting the log entry for each of the requests to a second storage server located at a secondary site, using one or more data transfers (page 13, paragraph 190), each of the data transfers including one or more of the modified blocks and having a unique transfer ID (page 5, paragraph 85; page 6, paragraph 86 and 87; Selkirk discloses the multiple layers of mapping table entry which may provide unique identification of the storage location);

saving modified data in a first set of non-volatile storage devices coupled to the first storage server based on the requests (See Tremblay, Fig. 1, First Data Storage Device 105; column 3, lines 42-62); and

initiating synchronization of data in the first set of non-volatile storage devices with data stored in a second set of non-volatile storage devices coupled to the second storage server (See Tremblay, column 1, lines 59-67), wherein said initiating synchronization includes

for each of the plurality of blocks which has been only partially modified as a result of the requests, sending the partially modified block to the second storage server (page 11, paragraph 168), and

for each of the plurality of blocks which has been wholly modified as a result of the requests, sending a transfer ID (page 5, paragraph 85; page 6, paragraph 86 and 87; Selkirk discloses the multiple layers of mapping table entry which may provide unique identification of the storage location) and a block number associated with the wholly modified block to the second storage server instead of the wholly modified block, the transfer ID identifying a data transfer in which the wholly modified block was sent to the second

storage server during said transmitting the log entry (page 13, paragraph 190), the block number indicating a location of the wholly modified block within said data transfer.

Regarding claim 14, Selkirk teaches a method, further comprising:

- maintaining a transfer ID structure (page 5, paragraph 85; page 6, paragraph 86 and 87; Selkirk discloses the multiple layers of mapping table entry which may provide unique identification of the storage location) including each said transfer ID;
- maintaining a buffer descriptor for each of the blocks (page 6, paragraph 92);
- in response to said transmitting the log entry (page 13, paragraph 190) for each of the requests to a second storage server, storing in the buffer descriptor for each block wholly modified as a result of the requests,

an index to a corresponding transfer ID stored in the transfer ID structure (page 5, paragraph 85; page 6, paragraph 86 and 87; Selkirk discloses the multiple layers of mapping table entry which may provide unique identification of the storage location), and

a block number to indicate a location of the corresponding wholly modified block within a data transfer in which the corresponding wholly modified block was sent to the second storage server (page 6, paragraph 92) during said transmitting the log entry (page 13, paragraph 190).

Regarding claim 15, Selkirk teaches a method, further comprising, in the second storage server:

receiving the corresponding log entry transmitted from the first storage server for each of the plurality of requests (Fig. 1, Clients 108, 110, and 112; page 2, paragraph 39), including receiving the data transfers;

storing each of the received log entries in local storage of the second storage server, including storing the blocks contained in the data transfers (page 13, paragraph 190);

storing each of the transfer IDs (page 5, paragraph 85; page 6, paragraph 86 and 87; Selkirk discloses the multiple layers of mapping table entry which may provide unique identification of the storage location) of the data transfers in association with a corresponding offset, each offset indicating a location in the local storage of the second storage server at which a block transferred in the corresponding data transfer is stored (Fig. 9, Load Point and Offset 906, page 6, paragraph 92);

during said synchronization of data, for each of the plurality of blocks which has been modified as a result of the requests (See Tremblay, column 9, lines 18-23),

receiving from the first storage server either a modified block or a transfer ID (page 5, paragraph 85; page 6, paragraph 86 and 87; Selkirk discloses the multiple layers of mapping table entry which may provide unique identification of the storage location) and block number of a modified block;

if a modified block has been received from the first storage server, then
storing the modified block in the second set of storage devices (See Tremblay, column 9,
lines 53-56); and

if a transfer ID and block number of a modified block have been received from
the first storage server, then

using the received transfer ID to identify the offset (Fig. 9, Load
Point and Offset 906, page 6, paragraph 92) associated therewith in the local storage
by; using the identified offset to retrieve the modified block from the local storage, and
storing the modified block retrieved from the local storage in the second set of storage
devices (See Tremblay, column 1, lines 59-67).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel B. Ko whose telephone number is 571-272-8194.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Manorama Padmanabhan can be reached on 571-272-4210. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Daniel B. Ko

AU 2189

Mano Padmanabhan
MANO PADMANABHAN 7/19/06
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER